nature net

The **Nature***Kenya* Newsletter www.naturekenya.org February 07

Arboretum celebrates 100 years

Nairobi River Basin

Talk by Achim Steiner - UNEP Executive Director

Thu 22 Feb. '07

at the Forester's House, Nairobi Arboretum 5:00 p.m.

- ksh 100/-

Wind in the Trees

musical performances by schools

Sat 24 Feb. '07

at the Nairobi Arboretum

2:00 - 5:00 pm - Free entry

Cape Town Opera

A Kijani Trust Musical Event

Sun 25 Feb. '07

at the Nairobi Arboretum at 5:00 p.m.

adults ksh 3000/- children ksh 500/-

Youth Committee organised activities

NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA RECEIVED 25 JAN

Camp at Elementaita

Fri 23 - Sun 25 February '07

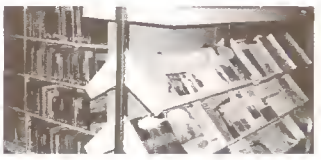
Birdwatch, visit Kariandusi Prehistoric site and nearby hot springs. **Cost** is Ksh. 1600 inclusive of transport, food, camping and guiding fees. Book at Nature Kenya by 16th Feb. '07. Bring tent, sleeping bag, walking shoes, water bottle & warm clothing

Western Kenya

Fri 6 - Mon 9 Mar. '07

Visit Saiwa Swamp National Park, Kitale and Kapenguria Museums and the Kitale Sanctuary. Cost is 5000 Ksh per person - more details will be in the March issue of Nature net

library



located at the Natural Sciences Building, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi (next to the Langi Langi cafeteria) INTERNET AVAILABLE

Now available at the library!

- The 22 volume set of **World Book Encyclopedias** kindly donatedby the US Library of Congress and the US Embassy

- Handbook of the Birds of the World Volume 11

55 colour plates, 343 colour photographs, 733 distribution maps.

Contents: Order PASSERIFORMES

Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)
Family Platysteiridae (Batises & Wattle-eyes)
Family Rhipiduridae (Fantails)
Family Monarchidae (Monarch-flycatchers)
Family Regulidae (Kinglets & Firecrests)
Family Polioptilidae (Gnatcatchers)
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas & allies)
Family Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)

FEBRUARY AT A GLIMPSE

Sat 10	Tree Walk
Sun 18	Sunday Birdwalk
Thu 22	Achim Steiner on Nairobi River Basin
Sat 24	Wind in the Trees
Sun 25	Cape Town Opera
Mon 26	Tree Walk

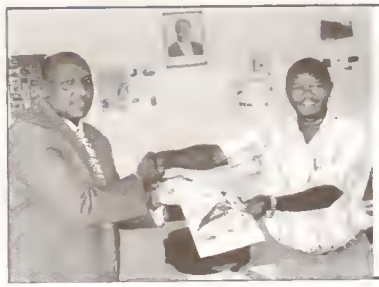
Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning
Bird ringing every Thursday morning

Editorial Team

Editor Catherine Ngarachu
Evening Skies Fleur Ng'weno
Naturalist's Corner Dino Martins
Action Serah Munguti

action

African Grey Parrot a threatened species *(BirdLife/CCF)*



Nature Kenya's Executive Director, Paul Matiku, & the Forestry Dept Chief Conservator of Forests, DK Mbugua, launch the latest Important Bird Areas Status Report which is now available at www.natureKenya.org

WILD BIRD TRADE banned by EU

Conservationists applaud the European Union decision to ban permanently wild bird trade

The EU Commission has announced that the ban on imports of birds caught in the wild is to be made permanent throughout the European Union later this year.

The move comes after a temporary ban was imposed within the EU in October 2005, after birds in a UK quarantine centre were found to have avian influenza.

"We fully applaud the decision made by the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health." said Dr Clairie Papazoglou, Head of European Division at BirdLife International. "Banning the imports of birds caught in the wild is great news for bird conservation, even though the ruling has been made to limit the spread of disease, and not to conserve species. Only if laws are made on the basis of conservation can we have more confidence in protecting those species that are threatened by trade."

The ban is to take effect from the 1 July 2007.

The EU's decision will heavily impact the illegal or unsustainable trade in wild birds that has decimated many species across the world.

Trapping for the bird trade is a threat for one in ten Globally Threatened Birds, and 57% of threatened parrot species. Some are close to extinction, such as the Yellow-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua sulphurea* of East Timor and Indonesia; others are already Extinct in the Wild such as the Spix's Macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii* of Brazil. Further examples of species threatened by exploitation for the bird trade include the Red Siskin *Carduelis cucullata* in northern South America, Java Sparrow *Padda oryzivora* of Indonesia and the African Grey Parrot *Psittacus erithacus*.

BirdLife Partners across Europe and Africa have been campaigning against trade in wild birds for up to 20 years.

Visit www.birdlife.org for updates

H5N1 Update

Newcastle disease in domestic and wild birds

In September '06, widespreod deoths of doves were reported in vorious ports of the country, including Olorgesailie, Mogodi ond North Eostern. All birds tested negative for bird flu. The couse of deoth for those doves collected from Mogadi ond Olorgesoilie is confirmed to be Newcostle diseose (this wos olso true for the dead birds from North Eostern os reported in the Dec06/Jon07 issue of *Nature net*). Newcostle disease is o highly contogious, common virol diseose of domestic poultry ond wild birds.

Surveillonce work for avion flu in Kenya continues. To report unusual die-offs in wild or domestic birds coll this hotline: 0722 726682

AIWEb - The Avian Influenza, Wildlife and the Environment Web - new web site launched

The AEWA Secretoriat together with its mother Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has recently unveiled AIWEb - The Avian Influenza, Wildlife and the Environment Web (www.oiweb.info). AIWEb is o web-bosed platform for informotion exchonge ond communicotion on current ond emerging topics reloting to ovion influenzo, the environment ond migrotory birds.

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DOWNGRADING
AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Nature Kenya goes to court

Since November 2005, the Amboseli case ot the High Court hos been severolly mentioned or odjourned.

A full heoring for the Amboseli cose hos now been scheduled for 14 Morch 2007 ot the High Court.

Direct Debit!

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Society offices at the Museum

You will find Nature Kenya offices at the Ford Hall and at a prefabricated building. The prefab building is located enroute to the Snake Park and is the office for the Nature Kenya membership shop and subscription desk.

Funding Opportunity

Natural Environment Research Council

Forestry-based climate mitigation project

Proposals are invited for research projects to examine and test the principles for forestry-based climate mitigation projects that will identify verification methods, design principles and guidelines intended to maximise benefits for climate, social welfare, the environment and biodiversity.

For further information:
www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/quest/events/ao070130-forestry.asp

Sustainable Forestry and Bioenergy

Proposals are invited for research projects to quantify the worldwide potential of different plant-based options to mitigate climate change, accounting for their environmental, biodiversity, economic and social consequences; a primary objective will be to provide information to decision makers involved in international climate policy negotiations.

For further information:
www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/quest/events/ao070130-bioenergy.asp

EVENING SKY

Ian Mackay & Fleur Ng'weno

Moon, February 2007

Full moon = Feb 2nd; Last quarter = Feb 10th;
New moon = Feb 17th; First quarter = Feb 24th

February Stars

Orian, the Hunter ar Warriar af ald Greek myths, travels acrass the February evening sky. Pick out this distinctive canstellation by the three bright stars in a raw in the middle. To the ancient Greeks, this was Orion's belt. His sword - three fainter stars in a raw - hangs fram his belt. Faur bright stars represent Orian's shaulders and knees. Rigel, blue-green in calour, is ane knee, kicking inta the sky; and one shoulder, lowest in the east, is formed by orange Betelguese.

The canstellations af twa hunting dogs follow Orion in the sky. The dag star, Sirius, in the sautheast, is the brightest star that we can see at night. The canstellatian af Lepus, the Hare, runs ahead of Orian and Sirius in the south. And Canopus, the second brightest star, is south af Sirius, lower in the sky.

Near blue-green Rigel, a long line af medium-bright stars winds tawards the sauth. This is the canstellatian Eridanus, the Great River af stars. It is best seen later in the manth, when the sky is quite dark.

Planets, February 2007

Venus and Saturn are brilliant lights at appasite ends af the sky in the evenings this manth. Venus has reappeared aver the sunset in the west.

Acrass the sky, Saturn is rising on the eastern harizan. It appears a little belaw and ta the right of the full maan on February 2nd.

The Earth will pass between Saturn and the sun an February 10th. This means that Saturn is claser ta us and brighter than usual this month. With binaculars or a telescape we may be able ta see the rings af Saturn!

A praminent star near Saturn is Regulus; this is the brightest star in the constellation of Leo the Lion. Sparkling-white Regulus is bright, but Saturn is brighter. Like all planets, Saturn shines with a steadier light than the twinkling stars. Each night Saturn and Regulus will be seen higher above the harizon. Saturn will remain in frant af Lea's stars thraughaut 2007.

Tiny Mercury is directly belaw Venus. It remains high enough for viewing during early evenings af the first half af February 2007. In the marning sky, Jupiter rises at abaut 2am, fallawed by Mars at abaut 5am an the 1st af February.

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are the visible planets. Other planets circling the sun, but taa far ta see with the naked eye, include Uranus, Neptune ... and Pluta? Last year saw a review af the status af Pluto, after some amazing discaveries of ather objects ever further away in our solar system. One af these abjects is three times bigger than Pluta! Naw Pluta has been dawngraded, and is considered ta be a 'Dwarf Planet'.

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Up & about

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park near Langi Langi cafe, every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

TREE WALKS

Guided tree walks in the Arboretum on the second Saturday and last Monday, i.e. **10** and **26 Feb 07** from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Arboretum gate. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park near Langi Langi cafe at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, i.e. **18 Feb '07.** The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museums' Nairobi Botonic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

SAMAKI DAYS

Guided fish excursions on the first Thursday, i.e. **1 Feb. '07** from 9:00 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Meet at the Nairobi Museum car park. *Pay Ksh 50/- per person on arrival*

KINANGOP GUEST HOUSE

Perched on the Kinangop Plateau with incredible views across the Rift Valley, the farm combines tussock-grass pasture, indigenous forest, and attractive gardens. The guesthouse is comfortable and fully furnished. Visitors can enjoy hikes and walks on the farm or go further afield with local guides.

For more information, brochure and non-member rates please contact Nature Kenya. Guest House rates: Day visit 350/-

MEMBER nos	Overnight	Weekend
1 to 2 pax	4000/-	6500/-
3 pax	4,900/-	7,400/-
4 pax	5,800/-	8,300/-

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On presentation of your membership card, you can get this discount off accommodation (if paying by cash or cheque) at the Driftwood Beachclub. This is a chorming beachfront property with great food and service. Contact: <gm@driftwoodclub.com or tel 042 20155

Ngong Road Forest Walks

Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks held the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **3 & 17 Feb.'07, at 9:00 a.m.** Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse. Call Ignatius ;to confirm on 3875207 or 0720 976299.

Lake Victoria Sunset Birders (Kisumu)

The Lake Victoria Sunset Birders organise bird walks at sites in and around Kisumu every Friday of the month. For further details call- 057 42952 or 0734 994938 or email lakevictoriasunsetbirders@yahoo.co.uk

Mt Kenya Biodiversity Conservation Group (MKBCG)

The MKBCG organise bird walks to sites around Naro Moru every last Saturday of the month i.e. **24 Feb.'07.**

For more information contact 0722 364904, 0733 937115 or 062 62071 Email: mt_kebio@yahoo.co.uk_

Birding at Kinangop

Friends of Kinangop Plateau organise birdwalks every third Friday of the month i.e. **16 Feb. 07** at 9:00 a.m around Magumu and Njambini areas. To participate contact Bakari Ng'ang'a on 0721 470215

MARURA NAROK BIRDWATCHERS

A community group near Uaso Narok Swamp, Rumuruti, which organises birdwalks every lost Saturday *i.e.* **24 Feb. '07**. Call 062 32718 or email olmaisor@africaonline.co.ke

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **3 Feb. '07, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person. KWS fees now apply (100/- Citizens, 500/- Residents)

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturdoy of each month, i.e. **17 Feb. '07.** Please call Marlene Reid on 2491648 or 0720 949195 to confirm

NatureKenya

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